

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : A61K 9/10, 9/16, 9/14	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 93/11749 (43) International Publication Date: 24 June 1993 (24.06.93)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/09989 (22) International Filing Date: 18 November 1992 (18.11.92) (30) Priority data: 809,656 18 December 1991 (18.12.91) US (71) Applicant: WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY [US/US]; 201 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 (US). (72) Inventors: GHEBRE-SELLASSIE, Isaac ; 21 Meadow Bluff Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 (US). REISCH, Robert, Jr. ; 26 Myrtle Avenue, Butler, NJ 07405 (US). PARIKH, Riten ; 44 Center Grove Road #P8, Randolph, NJ 07869 (US). FAWZI, Mahdi, B. ; 11 Timberline Drive, Flanders, NJ 07836 (US). NESBITT, Russell, U. ; 292 Miller Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876 (US).		(74) Agents: BULLITT, Richard, S. et al.; Warner-Lambert Company, 201 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 (US). (81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A SOLID DISPERSION (57) Abstract A novel solid pharmaceutical dispersion that improves the bioavailability of poorly water soluble drugs is produced by combining the drug with a polymer carrier such as polyvinylpyrrolidone. The drug is combined with the carrier without the need for using organic solvents or melting temperatures (fusion) through the use of a transition compound such as polyethylene glycol which partially solubilizes the drug and/or plasticizes the polymer.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	FR	France	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GB	United Kingdom	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	GN	Goinca	NO	Norway
BF	Borkina Faso	GR	Greece	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	IT	Italy	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	JP	Japan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SK	Slovak Republic
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SN	Senegal
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SU	Soviet Union
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
DK	Denmark	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
ES	Spain	MN	Mongolia	VN	Viet Nam
FI	Finland				

A process for the preparation of a solid dispersion.

Background of the Invention

5 The bioavailabilities of many poorly water soluble drug
entitles are limited by their dissolution rates which in
turn are governed by the particle size and hence the
specific surface area and/or the polymorphic state of the
10 active ingredient. At times, these problems are overcome by
particle size reduction. There are cases, however, where
the dissolution rates of the drug are not favorable enough
to improve its bioavailability. Therefore, techniques such
as lyophilization, solvent deposition, solvate formation and
15 solid dispersion have been employed to improve the
absorption of drugs.

 A solid dispersion is a pharmaceutical formulation
20 which may be defined as "a dispersion of one or more active
ingredients in an inert carrier or matrix at solid state
prepared by melting the two (fusion), dissolving them in a
solvent, or a combination of approaches, i.e., a quasi
melting-solvent method". The solvent-based process uses
25 organic solvents to dissolve and intimately disperse the
drug and carrier molecules. The process is relatively
difficult. Identification of a common solvent for both drug
and carrier is a tedious exercise, and complete solvent
removal from the product is, if at all possible, a lengthy
30 process. In addition, the volume of solvents required is
excessive, and the cost of solvent recovery systems is
prohibitive. The drug and carrier are dissolved in a
solvent such as methylene chloride, acetone, ethanol and
mixtures thereof and the solvent is later removed by
35 evaporation or the like while the drug/carrier solid
dispersion is collected as a powdered mass. Not only is the
process lengthy and expensive, but the use of organic
solvents renders it hazardous and toxic as well.

The second process for the manufacture of pharmaceutical dispersions involves fusion of the two components where the drug and the carrier are allowed to melt at temperatures at or above the melting point of the drug. In the fusion process, the drug and carrier are first blended and melted in a suitable mixer. The molten mixture is then cooled rapidly to provide a congealed mass which is subsequently milled to produce a powder. The fusion process is technically simple provided that the drug and carrier are miscible in the molten state but this is not always the case and furthermore, the process is limited in that it tends to lead to drug decomposition due to the high temperatures required to melt the two components.

A third method that is used to produce a solid dispersion when there is difficulty with thermal instability and immiscibility between the drug and the carrier is the hybrid fusion-solvent method. The drug is first dissolved in a small quantity of organic solvent and added to the molten carrier. The solvent is then evaporated to generate a product that is subsequently milled to produce a powder. The pharmacokinetics, dissolution rates and processes for formulation of many different solid pharmaceutical dispersions is discussed at length in an article by Ford, J., in *Pharm. Acta. Helv.* 61, 3; 69-88 (1986).

It is an object of the present invention to describe a novel manufacturing process for a solid pharmaceutical dispersion which obviates the need for organic solvents, elevated melting temperatures or the use of both. In particular, it is an object of the present invention to produce a solid pharmaceutical dispersion by incorporating in the formulation a solubilizer/plasticizer which acts as a vehicle to reduce the transition temperature by partially solubilizing the drug and/or plasticizing the polymer. This is particularly useful in the formulation of solid

pharmaceutical dispersions for drugs that decompose at or near their melting temperatures.

5

United States Patent No. 4,803,081 to Falk et al. discloses an extended release preparation of an active compound with very low solubility wherein the compound is dispersed in a liquid or semi-solid non-ionic solubilizer such as esters and ethers of polyethylene glycols. The solubilized drug is then combined with a hydrophilic gel system which controls the release of the drug and solubilizer at a constant even rate.

15

U.S. Patent No. 4,689,235 to Barnes et al. discloses an extrudable encapsulation matrix which improves the loading capacity for oils, flavors, pharmaceuticals and the like. The matrix is comprised of maltodextrin and hydrogen octenylbutanedioate amyloextrin or its equivalent. The formulation improves the extrusion processability of the drug and enables high levels of active agent to be incorporated into the dosage form.

25

United States Patent No. 4,678,516 to Alderman et al. teaches the formation of sustained release dosage forms utilizing a gel matrix comprised of hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (HPMC) and a major amount of a plasticizer in which the active pharmaceutical is dispersed. Suitable plasticizers include low molecular weight polyols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and the like. The plasticizer is employed to render the matrix thermoformable and comprises a major amount thereof, i.e., at least 30%. The active agent must be heat stable however, so that it is capable of being heated to a temperature sufficient to prepare a gel matrix from the HPMC and the plasticizer without being rendered inactive.

35

PCT Appln. No. WO 83/00091 teaches the formulation of a

PCT Appln. No. WO 83/00091 teaches the formulation of a polymeric diffusion matrix for the sustained release of water insoluble cardiovascular drugs such as 5-[(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl ethyl)methylamino]-2-(3,4 dimethoxyphenyl)-2-isopropyl valeronitrile. The matrix is comprised of a polar plasticizer, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) in ratios of about 2:1:1 respectively. The cardiovascular pharmaceutical matrix is particularly useful in transdermal formulations wherein the drug is delivered at a constant sustained rate across the skin.

The present invention does away with the need for elaborate chemical matrices and increases the bioavailability of water insoluble drugs through the formation of a solid pharmaceutical dispersion. The dispersion is formulated without the need of using organic solvents or melting temperatures of drugs (fusion) which would otherwise decompose many drugs which do so at or near their melting temperature.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is a novel pharmaceutical solid dispersion and the process for its preparation whereby generally water insoluble drugs are combined with a carrier polymer such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) without the need for organic solvents and/or high fusion temperatures. The process utilizes a vehicle such as polyethylene glycol which reduces the transition temperature and facilitates the molecular interaction between the drug and a polymer such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) by partially solubilizing the drug and/or plasticizing the polymer. This allows for a continuous and well controlled processing mode of manufacture.

Detailed Description of the Invention

5 The solid pharmaceutical dispersions of the present invention increase the bioavailability of various water insoluble drugs by increasing their dissolution rates which in turn produce increases in both the rates and extent of the drugs absorption. Hence, the dosage of many solid
10 dispersed drugs can be decreased and it is also believed that due to the increased dissolution and associated rapid absorption may reduce the proportion of the drug that is metabolized presystematically.

15 Nearly any water-insoluble drug may be formulated in the practice of the present invention so as to increase its solubility and hence its bioavailability. Drugs that are particularly useful in the practice of the present invention are those that decompose at or near their melting
20 temperature since these certainly cannot be formulated into solid pharmaceutical dispersions using the fusion method. Suitable pharmaceuticals include, but are not limited to acetohexamide, ajamaline, amylobarbitone, bendrofluozide, benzbromarone, benzonatate, benzylbenzoate, betametharzone,
25 chloramphenicol, chlorpropamide, chlorthalidone, clofibrate, corticosteroids, diazepam, dicumerol, digitoxin, dihydroxypropyltheophylline, ergot alkaloids, ethotoin, frusemide, glutethimide, griseofulvin, hydrochlorothiazide, hydrocortisone, hydroflumethiazide, hydroquinone,
30 hydroxyalkylxanthines, indomethacin, isoxsuprine hydrochloride, ketoprofen, khellin, meprobamate, nabilone, nicotainamide, nifedipine, nitrofurantoin, novalgin, nystatin, papaverine, paracetamol, phenylbutazone, phenobarbitone, prednisolone, prednisone, primadone,
35 reserpine, romglizone, salicylic acid, spiranolactone, sulphabenzamide, sulphadiazine, sulphamethoxydiazine, sulphamerazine, succinylsulphathiazole, sulphamethizole, sulphamethoxazole, sulphathiazole, sulphisoxazole,

testosterone, tolazoline, tolbutamide, trifluoperazine, trimethaprim and other water insoluble drugs.

5

Suitable carrier polymers that are useful in the formation of the solid drug dispersion include, but are not limited to, polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), high molecular weight polyethylene glycol (PEG), urea, citric acid, vinyl acetate copolymer, Eudragit® acrylic polymers, succinic acid, sugars and mixtures thereof. The carrier of choice obviously is dependent upon the drug to be dispersed but generally the chosen carrier must be pharmacologically inert and chemically compatible with the drug in the solid state. They should not form highly bonded complexes with a strong association constant and most importantly should be freely water soluble with intrinsic rapid dissolution properties.

Preferably, the carrier of choice in most dispersions is polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) which is a polymer of the monomeric unit $(C_6H_9NO)_n$ and is a free flowing amorphous powder that is soluble in both water and organic solvents. It is hygroscopic in nature and compatible with a wide range of hydrophilic and hydrophobic resins. Another preferred carrier is a high molecular weight polyethylene glycol such as (PEG) 6000 which is a condensation polymer of ethylene glycol with the general formula $(HOCH_2(CH_2OCH_2))_n CH_2OH$. Polyethylene glycols are generally a clear, colorless, odorless viscous liquid to waxy solid that is soluble or miscible with water.

The surprising and unexpected results of the present invention is the creation of a solid pharmaceutical dispersion comprised of the aforementioned water insoluble drugs and carriers without the need for using organic solvents, fusion (heat) or both (solvent/heat) which are either lengthy and expensive methods or which limit the types of drugs that can be formulated, i.e. heat labile

drugs. Surprisingly, it was discovered that the addition of a plasticizer/solubilizer during the mixing of the two components results in a chemical environment that readily lends itself to dispersion formation.

Suitable plasticizers/solubilizers useful in the practice of the present invention include low molecular weight polyethylene glycols such as PEG 200, PEG 300, PEG 400 and PEG 600. Other suitable plasticizers include propylene glycol, glycerin, triacetin, triethyl citrate, and sugar alcohols such as sorbitol, mannitol, and mixtures thereof. Optionally, a surfactant such as Tween 80 may be added to facilitate wettability within the formulation.

The water insoluble drug of interest is first blended with the carrier using any appropriate mixer in a drug/carrier ratio of from about 1:9 to about 5:1 respectively, based upon a percentage weight basis. Preferably, the drug/carrier ratio will be approximately 3:1 to about 1:3, respectively. The blend is then transferred to a fluid bed granulator and a plasticizer such as PEG 400 is dissolved in water with a surfactant such as Tween 80, if necessary. Other suitable surfactants include Tweens 20 and 60, Span 20, Span 40, Pluronic, polyoxyethylene sorbitol esters, monoglycerides, polyoxyethylene acids, polyoxyethylene alcohols and mixtures thereof. Once both ingredients are sufficiently dissolved, the solution is sprayed onto the powder blend in the fluid bed granulator under specific conditions. The resultant granulation is transferred to a container and fed into a high intensity mixer such as a twin screw extruder with at least one, and preferably more than one heating zones. The mixture is then extruded at appropriate temperatures depending on the heat stability of the drug until a solid dispersion is collected as an extrudate which is then transferred to a drum for milling. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion is then ground

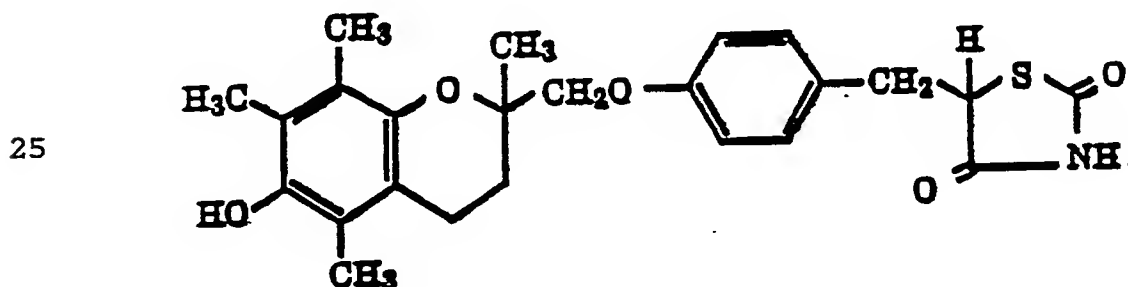
into a powdery mass and further prepared in a tablet or capsule form which may be optionally coated with a film such as hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose if desired.

The following examples are given to more particularly set forth and teach several specifics of the present invention. It must be remembered that they are for illustrative purposes only and should not be construed in a manner that will limit the spirit and scope of the invention as recited by the claims that follow:

Example 1

15

Romglizone, whose chemical name is (+)-5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione, is a novel insulin-sensitizing drug being developed for the treatment of non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. The chemical structure of the drug is as follows:



The drug is practically insoluble in water. Its solubility slightly increases as the pH of the aqueous media increases. In vivo studies involving animal models showed that the drug has poor bioavailability when administered in its original crystalline form. In contrast, when an equivalent solid dispersion of the drug in polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) was given, the bioavailability of the drug improved significantly.

Romglizone (500 gm..) and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP)

(300 gm..) were blended in P-K blender (Make, Model) for eight (8) minutes and subsequently transferred to a fluid bed granulator. Simultaneously, a surfactant such as Tween 80 (30 gm..) was dissolved with polyethylene glycol 400 (75 gm..) in a sufficient amount of water for complete dissolution. The Tween/PEG/H₂O solution was then sprayed onto the drug/PVP blend in a Roto-Glatt GPCG-5 fluid bed granulator at 36-40°C until the solution is exhausted. The resultant granulation was then fed into a twin screw extruder with four heating zones set at 125°C, 125°C, 125°C and 115°C respectively. The solid dispersion is extruded at a rate of five gms/sec at a head pressure no greater than 5,000 p.s.i. and collected in a drum containing a dessicant such as selica gel. The collected extrudate was then milled using a standard mill such as a Fitzmill to produce a fine powdery mass of the Romglizone solid dispersion.

20 Example II

A batch of solid pharmaceutical dispersion comprising Romglizone was made according to the procedure set forth in Example I using the following materials and proportions. Values given refer to the amount of ingredients in a single tablet.

Romglizone	200.00 mg
Polyvinylpyrrolidone	120.00 mg
Tween 80 NF	12.00 mg
Polyethylene glycol 400 NF	30.00 mg
Purified H ₂ O USP	42.60 mg

35 Example III

The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of Example II was further processed into a tablet core by first thoroughly mixing

10

approximately 362.0 gm. of the milled material with 10.00 mg. of Cab-O-Sil. The resultant mixture was then discharged into a P-K blender and the following materials were then added.

Talc USP	4.00 mg.
Microcrystalline Cellulose NF	29.00 mg.
10 Low substituted Hydroxypropyl Cellulose (L-HPC)	120.00 mg.

The materials were tumble blended for approximately ten (10) minutes after which a portion of the blend was discharged into a plastic bag. Magnesium stearate (5.00) gm. was added to the contents of the bag and the ingredients were mixed well. The mix was then passed through a No. 30 U.S. standard mesh screen, and added to the main blend. The mixture was again tumble-blended for an additional three minutes. The final blend was then compressed into tablet form using a standard capsule-shaped plain punch known in the art. The tableted solid dispersion may then be optionally film coated with hydroxypropyl methylcellulose using a standard pan coating apparatus.

25

30

35

What we claim is:

- 5 1. A process for the preparation of a poorly water soluble drug in solid dispersion comprising
 - a) blending the drug with a carrier;
 - 10 b) dissolving a surfactant and a plasticizer/
solubilizer in water;
 - c) spraying the surfactant-plasticizer/solubilizer
15 solution onto the drug/carrier mixture in a fluid
bed granulator;
 - d) extruding the resulting granulation through a twin
screw extruder with at least one heating zone;
and,
 - 20 e) milling the extrudate to a powdery mass of the
solid drug dispersion.
- 25 2. The process of claim 1 wherein said drug is selected
from the group consisting of acetohexamide, ajamaline,
amylobarbitone, bendrofluoside, benzbromarone,
benzonatate, benzylbenzoate, betamethazone,
chloramphenicol, chlorpropamide, chlorthalidone,
30 clofibrate, corticosteroids, diazepam, dicumerol,
digitoxin, dihydroxypropyltheophylline, ergot
alkaloids, ethotoin, frusemide, glutethimide,
griseofulvin, hydrochlorothiazide, hydrocortisone,
hydroflumethiazide, hydroquinone,
hydroxyalkylxanthines, indomethacin, isoxsuprine
35 hydrochloride, ketoprofen, khellin, meproamate,
nabilone, nicotainamide, nifedipine, nitrofurantoin,
novalgin, nystatin, papaverine, paracetamol,
phenylbutazone, phenobarbitone, prednisolone,

prednisone, primadone, reserpine, romglizone, salicylic acid, spiranolactone, sulphabenzamide, sulphadiazine, 5 sulphamethoxydiazine, sulphamerazine, succinylsulphathiazole, sulphamethizole, sulphamethoxazole, sulphathiazole, sulphisoxazole, testosterone, tolazoline, tolbutamide, trifluoperazine, trimethaprim and mixtures thereof.

10

3. The process of claim 2 wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl pyrrolidone, high molecular weight polyethylene glycol, urea, citric acid, vinyl acetate copolymer, Eudragit® acrylic 15 polymers, succinic acid, sugars and mixtures thereof.

20

4. The process of claim 3 wherein said plasticizer/solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of low molecular weight polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerin, triacetin, triethyl citrate, sugar alcohols and mixtures thereof.

25

5. The process of claim 4 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of Tween, Span, Pluronic, polyoxyethylene sorbitol esters, monodiglycerides, polyoxyethylene acid polyoxyethylene alcohol and mixtures thereof.

30

6. The process of claim 5 wherein said granulation is extruded at a temperature less than the decomposition point of said drug.

35

7. The process of claim 6 wherein said drug and carrier are mixed in ratios of from about 1:9 to about 5:1 respectively, on a percent weight basis.

8. The process of claim 7 wherein said drug and carrier are mixed in a ratio of from about 3:1 to about 1:3

respectively, on a percent weight basis.

- 5 9. A solid pharmaceutical dispersion with improved
solubility characteristics consisting essentially of a
poorly water soluble drug and;
- 10 a) a carrier selected from the group consisting of
polyvinyl pyrrolidone, high molecular weight
polyethylene glycol, urea, citric acid, Eudragit®
acrylic polymers, succinic acid and mixtures
thereof and,
- 15 b) a solubilizer/plasticizer selected from the group
consisting of polyols, phthalate esters, glycerol
esters, citrate esters, sugar alcohols and
mixtures thereof.
- 20 10. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 9 wherein
said poorly water soluble drug is selected from the
group consisting of acetohexamide, ajamaline,
amylobarbitone, bendrofluozide, benzbromarone,
benzonatate, benzylbenzoate, betamethazone,
25 chloramphenicol, chlorpropamide, chlorthalidone,
clofibrate, corticosteroids, diazepam, dicumerol,
digitoxin, dihydroxypropyltheophylline, ergot
alkaloids, ethotoin, frusemide, glutethimide,
griseofulvin, hydrochlorothiazide, hydrocortisone,
30 hydroflumethiazide, hydroquinone,
hydroxyalkylxanthines, indomethacin, isoxsuprine
hydrochloride, ketoprofen, khellin, meprobamate,
nabilone, nicotainamide, nifedipine, nitrofurantoin,
novalgin, nystatin, papaverine, par-acetamol,
35 phenylbutazone, phenobarbitone, prednisolone,
prednisone, primadone, reserpine, romglizone, salicylic
acid, spiranolactone, sulphabensamide, sulphadiazine,
sulphamethoxydiazine, sulphamerazine,

succinylsulphathiazole, sulphamethizole,
sulphamethoxazole, sulphathiazole, sulphisoxazole,
5 testosterone, tolazoline, tolbutamide, trifluoperazine,
trimethaprim and mixtures thereof.

11. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 10 wherein
said drug and carrier are formulated in ratios of from
10 about 1:9 to about 5:1 respectively, on a percentage
weight basis.

12. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 11 wherein
said drug and said carrier are formulated in ratios of
15 from about 3:1 to about 1:3, respectively on a
percentage weight basis.

13. A solid pharmaceutical dispersion with improved
solubility characteristics comprised of a poorly water
20 soluble drug and a carrier produced by the process
consisting of:

a) mixing said drug and the carrier in a ratio of
approximately 1:9 to about 5:1 respectively, on a
25 percent weight basis;

b) spraying onto said mixture a solution consisting
of a plasticizer/solubilizer, and optionally, a
surfactant;

30 c) extruding the resultant granulation in a twin
screw extruder with at least one heating zone; and

d) milling the extrudate to a powdery mass.

35 14. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 13 wherein
said drug is selected from the group consisting of
acetohexamide, ajamaline, amylobarbitone,

bendrofluozide, benzbromarone, benzonatate,
benzylbenzoate, betamethazone, chloramphenicol,
5 chlorpropamide, chlorthalidone, clofibrate,
corticosteroids, diazepam, dicumerol, digitoxin,
dihydroxypropyltheophylline, ergot alkaloids, ethotoin,
frusemide, glutethimide, griseofulvin,
hydrochlorothiazide, hydrocortisone,
10 hydroflumethiazide, hydroquinone,
hydroxyalkylxanthines, indomethacin, isoxsuprine
hydrochloride, ketoprofen, khellin, meproamate,
nabilone, nicotainamide, nifedipine, nitrofurantoin,
novalgin, nystatin, papaverine, paracetamol,
15 phenylbutazone, phenobarbitone, prednisolone,
prednisone, primadone, reserpine, romglizone, salicylic
acid, spiranolactone, sulphabenzamide, sulphadiazine,
sulphamethoxydiazine, sulphamerazine,
succinylsulphathiazole, sulphamethizole,
20 sulphamethoxazole, sulphathiazole, sulphisoxazole,
testosterone, tolazoline, tolbutamide, trifluoperazine,
trimethaprim and mixtures thereof.

15. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 14 wherein
25 said carrier is selected from the group consisting of
polyvinyl pyrrolidone, high molecular weight
polyethylene glycol, urea, citric acid, vinyl acetate
copolymer, Eudragit® acrylic polymers, succinic acid,
sugars and mixtures thereof.

30

16. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 15 wherein
said plasticizer/solubilizer is selected from the group
consisting of low molecular weight polyethylene glycol,
propylene glycol, glycerin, triacetin, triethyl
35 citrate, sugar alcohols and mixtures thereof.

17. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 16 wherein
said surfactant is selected from the group consisting

16

of Tween, Span, Pluronic, polyoxyethylene sorbitol
esters, polyoxyethylene acid, polyoxyethylene alcohols
and mixtures thereof.

5

18. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 17 wherein
said extrusion is carried out at a temperature below
the decomposition point of said drug.

10

19. The solid pharmaceutical dispersion of claim 18 wherein
said extrusion occurs at a rate of approximately 2
gm/sec. to about 7 gm/sec.

15

20

25

30

35

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: A61K 9/10, A61K 9/16, A61K 9/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC5: A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI, WPIL, MEDLINE, EMBASE, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Dialog Information Services, file 351, WPIL, Dialog accession no. 007112953, WPI accession no. 87-112950/16, ICHIMARU FARCOS KK et al: "Formation of solid dispersion or microcapsule contg. medicine comprises spray drying soln. or suspension formed by stirring alkaline water soln. contg. medicine and copolymer", JP 62059207, A, 870314, 8716 (Basic) --	1-19
X	WO, A1, 8300091 (KEY PHARMACEUTICALS, INCORPORATED), 20 January 1983 (20.01.83), see especially page 7, example IV	9-19
A	see especially page 4, lines 2-5 and lines 10-11 --	1-8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 March 1993

Date of mailing of the international search report

16.04.93

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentplan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. J1 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

CAROLINA PALMCRANTZ

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 92/09989

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO, A2, 9006115 (HENNING BERLIN GMBH CHEMIE- UND PHARMAWERK), 14 June 1990 (14.06.90), see especially page 4, lines 17-19, 28-29 and page 3, line 11	9-19
A	--	1-8
X,P	Dialog Information Services, file 351, WPIL, Dialog accession no. 009254330, WPI accession no. 92-381747/46, NIPPON SHINYAKU CO LTD: "Mfr. of solid dispersion - using twin-screw extruder to form controlled-release pharmaceutical compsn. without organic solvent, high temp., etc.", WO 9218106, A1, 921029, 9246 (Basic)	1-19
	-- -----	

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 9-19
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

see the attached sheet**
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see the attached sheet*

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

*

Invention A, claims 1-8, drawn to a process for the preparation of a solid dispersion.

Invention B, claims 9-19, drawn to a solid pharmaceutical dispersion. The dispersion can be obtained by other processes than the process according to claims 1-8.

**

Because the scope of claims 9-19 are so broadly formulated that an essential part of solid dispersions are covered. The description makes it clear that the intended invention is the process for preparing a solid dispersion. Claims 9-19 are not limited to that invention as the same product can be obtained by known methods of the present description, see for instance page 4, lines 2-12.

Therefore, the search of claims 9-19 has been incomplete.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

26/02/93

International application No.
PCT/US 92/09989

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO-A1-	8300091	20/01/83	EP-A-	0083370	13/07/83
WO-A2-	9006115	14/06/90	DE-A,C-	3839825	13/06/90
			EP-A-	0445158	11/09/91
			JP-T-	4502004	09/04/92